

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:14 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CAP X powerline

From: blgregers@myclearwave.net [mailto:blgregers@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 7:47 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CAP X powerline

Stephanie A. Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist/RD
1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244
Washington, DC 20250-1571

I write to you with my concerns for the CAP X2020 power line that is being proposed to go from the Dakota and ultimately end up in Chicago. I am sure that you have read them all, but I would like to state my concerns.

I-207-001

1. I understand that the current updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for ultra high voltage power lines -- including the LaCrosse Project. If we don't need them, then why build these kind of lines -- we can't afford to do business as usual and just build or buy things like we used to do. The money is not there.

I-207-002**I-207-004**

2. I have a real concern about the environmental damage that will occur from coal and the pollution it causes. There is no "clean coal power." Why are we using this kind of energy source when there are much more environmentally sound ones. Please don't do this. We only have one world and we are responsible to leave it a better place for our children and grandchildren. Please consider how the entire project will cause pollution.

3. Let's not further damage the environment and protected national wildlife refuge by putting this kind of power line in the places where we have already declared it to be a refuge. There are so many other ways to do this and at a much lower cost. Don't continue the fallacy of going with what we know. Let leave this world a better place for our children. Let us not damage or destroy the environment so that we have children who do not know the beauty of the land without power lines overhead.

I-207-003

4. Please do not put further burdens on already financially strapped people by asking them to pay for utility lines that they will receive no benefit from -- not to mention that their property value will decrease with a high voltage power line on it.

In this past couple of years, we have been the victim of so many greedy corporations who have no regard for the "little" people. They don't care who gets hurt as long as they get their way or their money. Well, we are in a financial crisis in this country because of that greed. Maybe you should listen to the "little" people who kept their head on straight and did not over extend themselves or did not get greedy. We are the backbone of this country and are paying for that greed. Please don't let the power companies the comprise CAPX2020 take advantage of the "little" people. We don't need to get hit again.

Thank you for your time.

Linda Gregerson
Northfield, MN

I-207-005

5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

I-207-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-207-002

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-003

Your comment has been noted. Socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-004

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-207-005

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.